

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 NEA-09 ISO-00 COA-01 OIC-02 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 CG-00 DOTE-00

JUSE-00 OMB-01 CIEP-01 CEA-01 IO-10 /081 W

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P R 231145Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2129

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 216

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJ: LAW OF SEA: REGIONAL MEETING IN COLOMBO

REF: NEW DELHI 1013; KATHMANDU 378; STATE 12788

1. EMBOFF MET JAN 23 WITH PINTO, LEGAL ADVISER, MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MDFA) AND GSL'S KEY MAN ON LAQLOF SEA MATTERS. PINTO, WHO WAS UNAVAILABLE EARLIER IN WEEK, EXPRESSED AMAZEMENT OVER REQUEST FOR INFO SAYING NO MEETING ON LOS ISSUES SET AND NO ONE HAS BEEN INVITED.

2. PINTO SAID NEPAL HAD EARLIER MOOTED POSSIBILITY OF HOLDING REGIONAL MEETING OF LANDLOCKED COUNTRIES. THIS HAD FALLEN THROUGH. SRI LANKA HAS CONSIDERED POSSIBILITY OF REGIONAL MEETING BUT SO FAR HAS MERELY, AS MATTER OF COURTESY, QUERIED NEPALESE AS TO WHETHER THIS WOULD
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INTERFERE WITH ANY NEPALESE PLANS. CEYLONENE HAVE

TOUCHED BASE WITH INDIANS, BUT, OTHER THAN NEPALESE,
NO OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN APPROACHED.
APPROACH TO NEPALESE WAS MADE AT UN BUT, ACCORDING
TO PINTO, GSL HAS NOT YET RECEIVED REPLY TO ITS
INQUIRY TO NEPALESE.

3. IDEA BEHIND MEETING, PINTO EXPLAINED, WAS TO TRY TO
REACH REGIONAL AGREEMENT ON ISSUES PERTAINING TO RIGHTS
OF LANDLOCKED STATES, WHICH PINTO FELT WAS ONE OF
MOST INTRACTABLE LOS ISSUES. HOPEFULLY, SUCH AGREEMENT
WOULD PROVIDE BASIS FOR PROMOTING SOLUTION TO "LANDLOCKED"
QUESTIONS ELSEWHERE. HOWEVER, AS REPLY NOT YET RECEIVED FROM
NEPALESE, AND AS FEBRUARY IS ONLY TIME FRAME IN WHICH
MEETING COULD BE HELD OWING TO OTHER UPCOMING MEETINGS,
PINTO FELT PROSPECTS FOR MEETING NOT BRIGHT.

4. COMMENT: LOOKS AS IF NEPALESE HAVE JUMPED THE GUN AND HOPE
HAS OUTPACED ACTUALITY. RECOMMEND POSTS OTHER THAN
NEW DELHI AND KATHMANDU NOT
RPT NOT APPROACH HOST GOVERNMENTS REGARDING MEETING AT
PRESENT AS THIS COULD CREATE EMBARRASSMENT FOR GSL.
VAN HOLLEN

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